

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Davis W8653

Martha Davis f41SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/31/10 & 4/17/20

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

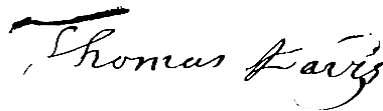
[p 4]

South Carolina, York District }

On this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 1850 personally appeared Colonel Thomas Davis a resident of said District aged 47 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> July 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows. That this declarant the above named Col. Thomas Davis in behalf of himself and the surviving children of Captain William and Martha Davis late of York District deceased, states that the said Capt. William Davis was a private, Lieutenant and Captain in the South Carolina Militia in the army of the revolution as the heirs have always understood and still believe and as such he served the United States against the common enemy from the time he entered the service of his country in 1777 or 1778 until the close of the war in 1783 in Col. Bratton's [William Bratton's] Regiment Sumter's [Thomas Sumter's] Brigade, but cannot give the particulars of said service and was generally a horseman in said service and was in the following battles viz. Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780], Sumter's Defeat [August 18, 1780], Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] & King's Mountain [October 7, 1780] with others not now recollected. That he has in support of his father's service, his commission as captain in Col. Bratton's Regiment and a certificate of the amount due him for his services in the Revolution, both of which are hereunto attached. Declarant further says that his father Capt. William Davis was married to his mother Martha Spence in York District South Carolina in 1783 or 1784 and that he now offers in evidence of their marriage the family register showing the births of their children issue of this said marriage which is herewith surrendered. He further says that his father Capt. William Davis died on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 1820 and that his mother Martha Davis wife and widow of the above named Capt. William Davis departed this life at the residence of Declarant May the twentieth one thousand eight hundred and forty leaving the following children surviving viz. Francis Davis, Ann Scott, William Davis, Josiah Davis, Martha S. McKenzie, Louisa M. Davis and Col. Thomas Davis (Declarant) who are now the only surviving children all of whom are supposed to be still living and of lawful age.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

S/ Thomas Davis



In open court

John G. Enloe, C. C. C. Pls.

I T. J. Withers one of the Law Judges of the State of South Carolina do hereby certify that it has been shown in evidence to the satisfaction of the Court that Martha Davis widow of Capt. William Davis died at the residence of her son Col. Thomas Davis in York District South Carolina on the twentieth day of May one thousand eight hundred and forty leaving the following children surviving viz. Francis Davis, Ann Scott, William Davis, Josiah Davis, Martha S. McKenzie, Louisa M. Davis and Col. Thomas Davis (Declarant) all of whom are of lawful age and believed to be still living. It is further shown that the Declarant Col. Thomas Davis is a respectable citizen of this District and his statements entitled to full credit.

I further certify that the family Register hereunto attached was cut out of the family bible in open court.

Witness my hand the 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1850.

S/ T. J. Withers

South Carolina  
York District

I John G. Enloe Clerk of the court of Common Pleas and General Sessions for York District do hereby certify that T. J. Withers whose signature appears to the above is one of the law Judges of South Carolina and that the signature purporting to be his is genuine. Sworn under my hand and seal of office this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November A. D. 1850 at York Court House.

S/ John G. Enloe, C. C.C. pls. & G. S.

I am personally acquainted with the declarant Col. Thomas Davis & take pleasure in testifying to his respectability & credibility.

S/ D. Wallace, M. C.  
Dec. 1850

I Certify that I have rec'd Accts. & Vouchers agt [against] the Public from Wm Davis to Amt. £788.15.

S/ Wm Tate

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[Birth records from Bible

Francis Davis born Nov. 28 [?] 1785

Ann Davis born fabuary 10<sup>th</sup> 1787

John David born Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 1788

David Davis born Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 1790

Jean Davis born Jan:y 28<sup>th</sup> 1793

William Davis Jun Born Sept. the 20 1798 [last digit could be "5" or "6"]

Josiah Davis Born May 7 1797

George Washington Davis & Martha Spence Davis Born Sept 10[?] 1799

Luiza McKinzie Davis Born Sept 12 1801

Thomas Davis Born [day and month illegible] 1803

Polly Davis Born April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1807]

Francis Davis born Nov. 20: 1785  
 Ann Davis born february the 10 1787  
 John Davis born Sept the 19 1788  
 David Davis born Oct the 8: 1790  
 Jean Davis born Jan: 9<sup>th</sup> 1793  
 William Davis born  
 Sep the 20 1798  
 Joseph Davis born Aug 1 1797  
 George Washington Davis born  
 Martha Spencer Davis  
 10 Sept: 10 ----- 1799  
 Luiza Mc George Davis  
 Born Sept 12 ----- 1801  
 Thomas Davis born  
 October 10 ----- 1803  
 Polly Davis born April  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 1807

[p 10]  
 South Carolina  
 York District

Before me personally appeared Mary Patrick a resident of York District aged 57 years who being first duly sworn according to law says that she was raised within a mile and a half of Capt. William Davis and wife Martha whose heirs are now applicants for pension in right of their mother Martha the only wife and widow of the said Captain William Davis whom Deponent

always understood and believed was a private, lieutenant & captain in the Revolution and as such was generally in service from the commencement of hostilities to the close of the War [in] Col. Neal's & Col. Bratton's Regiments. Deponent was often in and intimately acquainted with the family of Capt. William Davis and knew all his children viz. Francis, Ann, John, David, Jane, William, Josiah, George, Martha, Louisa, Thomas & Mary, who were all the children of Capt William & Martha Davis and issue of their marriage. Capt. William Davis was a ruling Elder in Bethel Church (Presbyterian order) and that he and his wife as well as their family were & are very respectable.

Sworn to & Subscribed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 1851.

S/ Mary Patrick "x" her mark

S/ A. S. Wallace, Magt.

Andrew Patrick aged 53 years past on oath says that he was raised within two miles of Capt. William & Martha Davis of York District South Carolina and from his own personal knowledge as well as tradition is fully satisfied that the statements made by Mary Patrick the subscribing witness are correct.

Sworn to & subscribed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 1851. S/ Andrew Patrick  
A. S. Wallace, Magt.

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Joseph Clinton aged 73 years past a resident of York District South Carolina on oath says that the family of Capt. William Davis & wife Martha were born and raised within a mile & a half from deponent viz., Frances, Ann, John, Jared, Jane, William, Josiah, George, Martha, Louisa, Thomas and Mary who are all the issue of the marriage. The said Capt. William Davis was a ruling elder in Bethel Church where deponent always worships and was a highly respectable citizen.

Capt. William Davis was regarded as a distinguished Revolutionary Soldier in which he was generally engaged against the common enemy from the commencement of hostility to the close of the war, had the reputation of being private, Lieutenant & Captain, the latter title he bore, ever afterwards up to the time of his death and that **he believes him to be the identical William Davis whose name appears in the Journal<sup>1</sup> of his father Captain Peter Clinton's service in the Indian Campaign** and is fully satisfied that the marriage of the aforesaid parties took place as early as 1784 or 1785.

Sworn to and subscribed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1851.

S/ Joseph Clinton



A. S. Wallace, Magistrate

Mary Clinton aged 72 years on oath says she is fully satisfied from personal knowledge that the children above named are the issue of Capt. William and Martha Davis and that she believes the statements of the foregoing witnesses in relation to the services of Capt. William Davis to be correct as such has always been the tradition of the neighborhood.

Sworn to and subscribed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 1851.

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<sup>1</sup> See, [Peter Clinton W9390](#)

S/ Mary Clinton

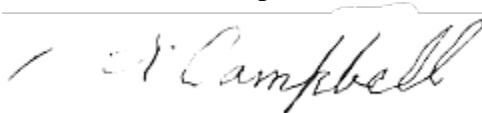


A. S. Wallace, Magistrate

Captain Isaac A. Campbell aged eighty three years on oath says that he was personally & intimately acquainted with Capt. William Davis since his first recollection whose heirs are now applicants for Pension in right of their mother Martha Davis only wife and widow of Capt. William Davis, formerly Martha Spence and always understood and believed that the said Capt. William Davis was a private, Lieutenant & Captain in the Revolution and as such was generally in service during said war, and believe he was the identical William Davis whose name appears [in] the Journal of Capt Peter Clintons Service in the Indian Campaign of 1776 as he lived in the immediate neighborhood of Capt Peter Clinton and he knew of no other Revolutionary soldier of the same name. Deponent was well acquainted with the family of Capt. William & Martha Davis above named and issue of their marriage as they all worshipped at the same church viz. Bethel where the said William Davis was a ruling Elder up to the time of his death. Deponent was not at the marriage but is fully satisfied that they were married several years previous to 1794. Capt. William Davis was a man of high character and a correct man and that he always bore the title of Captain after the War and his services as a revolutionary soldier was highly appreciated by the community.

Sworn to and subscribed the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 1851.

S/ I. A. Campbell



A. S. Wallace, Magistrate

Unionville, June 22, 1851

Sir

I have the honor to enclose additional evidence in the case of Martha Davis widow of Captain William Davis an officer & soldier of the revolution.

The original account of Captain William Davis which is filed with the evidence in this case, I am informed & believe was found with the papers of Captain William Davis by his family after his death I am also informed that this account although divided, corresponds with the Accounts found in the Comptroller's office Columbia among the Revolutionary Records, and that the original signature of William Davis to both parts of the account of the same & his own genuine signature, which shows that all the services embraced by these accounts were rendered by Captain William Davis & no other. These accounts, embrace his receipts for money received for his services & for supplies.

The reason why this claim was not sooner made is I presume that same that has prevailed in many other cases of the same time in this state which have come under my own particular notice. Many of the claimants did not know for a long period of time, that any right to a pension existed. Many others who were aware of the existence of such right declined to apply for what was due from notions of family pride. When the pension law of 1832 first past, it was unpopular in many sections of the Country, & many entitled to pensions have still refused to apply for the benefit of the act. As this reluctance to the making applications of this kind has gradually

become lessened by time the applications have increased, & it comes within my knowledge that many dormant claims, still survive. It is upon these grounds doubtless that this claim has not heretofore been made, coupled with the known difficulty which has ever attended their favorable consideration at the War Department. Few know their rights under the law -- & fewer still know how to proceed to obtain their rights. This is almost universally the case. That these cases are somewhat numerous in this section of the State & upon the borders of the State, need excite no surprise when the fact is remembered that during the revolutionary war, South Carolina was for years almost in complete possession of the British Army & the Tories, & that there was no safety for a Whig, but in the Service & in the camp. A title of the cases which could be presented, I have not yet been presented to the Department, & many perhaps never will be.

A change which time effects in the fortunes of families, causes very frequently a claim to be presented, which otherwise never would have been presented.

In my judgment, & knowing the circumstances as I do, the claims should be judged alike, upon the merits of the evidence, going to establish the service performed, & the identity of the claimant with the service.

But few of the Tory families remained in this state after the close of the revolution. These who did remain, were generally known, & tradition has handed down their names to the present generation, & I do not recollect to have observed a single application for a pension from any but Whig families. The line between the Whig & Tory families was so distinctly drawn, that it will take another century to obliterate it entirely. There may be defect of proof – the amount of service may fall short of the time required by the Act of Congress, but among all the claims which have come under my notice from this section of the country, I have never been able to detect one which rested upon other than Services faithfully rendered to the Country & upon the side of liberty & Independence.

I have the honor to be Your Obedient Servant  
S/ D. Wallace

[Hon. J. E. Heath]

[File contains a very detailed accounting of amounts paid to a William Davis for military services given by the Comptroller's Office in Columbia—2 pages.]

[p 32: File also contains a commission appointing William Davis as a captain in William Bratton's Regiment; the commission was given by John Rutledge, Governor, and is dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1781.]

[p 38]

State of North Carolina Gaston County } Before me personally appeared Thomas Macclean a resident citizen of said County aged 87 years who being first duly Sworn according to law says that he was intimately and personally acquainted with Captain William Davis since his first recollection up to the time of the said William Davis' death which occurrence took place many years back.

Deponent well recollects Captain William Davis during the Revolution and knows that he had the reputation of being a good Whig soldier and served in the capacity of private, Lieutenant & Captain and as such was generally in service during the revolutionary war.

Deponent well recollects of seeing Captain William Davis in service during the war in time of the Revolution as he deponent, although a boy, was in Scout service himself and was well acquainted with the Whigs in the vicinity of his father's [house] who lived on the Point

between the South Fork & Catawba River: and the said William Davis about six miles from his said father's [house] in what is now York District where a part of his family now resides. Deponent was well acquainted with Martha Davis the wife & widow of Captain William Davis and mother of the present claimants formerly, Martha Spencer, with whom deponent was well acquainted before her marriage with Captain William Davis and is fully satisfied from the date of his own marriage that the marriage of the above named parties took place several years before the year 1794 which occurrence Deponent well recollects though not present at the marriage, but to specify the tours of Service Deponent Cannot but knows that the said William Davis was called Captain ever after the Revolution, and his services highly appreciated by his neighbors and Whig friends and that no other opinion has ever been entertained to this Deponent's knowledge

Sworn to and subscribed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 1851

S/ Thos MacLean



[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$112 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1836, and ending May 20, 1840. The amount of her pension was based on his service as a Private, Lieutenant & Captain in the South Carolina militia. On page 3 of the file there is a calculation of the pension as follows:

6 mo. [months] 7 dys [days] pri [private] Horse [in the horse service]	25.08
2 mo. 2 dys pri Inf. [infantry or foot service]	7.00
4 mo 9 dys Lieut.	57.33 1/3
1 [mo] 5 dys Capt.	23.33 1/3
	\$112.74

per annum from 4 March 36 to 20 May 1840 when she died, payable to Francis Davis, Ann Scott, William Davis, Josiah Davis, Martha S. McKenzie, Louisa M Davis & Thomas Davis only surviving children.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts <sup>2</sup> relating to William Davis	AA78
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 1816	
Transcribed by Will Graves	4/17/20

[p 54]

State of South Carolina	Dr. to William Davis Capt.	
62 days as private of foot at 10/ [10 Shillings old SC currency per day]		£31.0.0
79 days a Horseman at 20/		79.0.0
77 days a Lieutenant at £2.5		173.5
31 days at £2.5		69.15.0
21 days at £2.5		47.5.0
35 days Captain at £3.10		122.10.0
41 days a Private Horsemen at 20/		41.0.0

<sup>2</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.

67 do at 20/

67.0.0  
£583.15

[p 55]

Received 26 May 1785 Ninety Pounds, 2/2 full Satisfaction for Indent No. 664 – U for William Davis by an Order  
£90.2.2

S/ James Ramsay



[p 56]

We William Patrick and David Johnson Do Certify that we appraised a Certain Bay horse Branded T. W. Lost at General Sumter's defeat [Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780] at 55 pounds  
also one Bay Mare Branded S on ye near shoulder valued at 104 pounds  
both ye property of William Davis

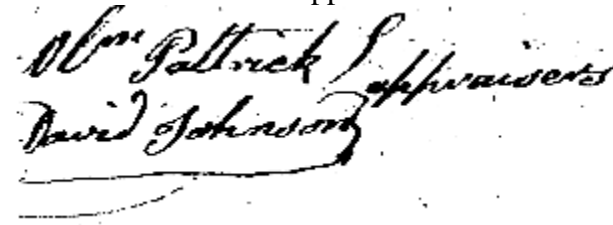
£055

104

Total 159

The above appraisers sworn before me  
S/ Jos. Howe, JP


S/ Wm Patrick  
S/ David Johnson appraisers



State of South Carolina

I do hereby Authorize James Ramsey Esquire to demand and Receive my Indent or Indents from the Public treasurers of this State and his Receipt shall be your Sufficient discharge from Gentlemen your Humble Servant

S/ William Davis  
Cpt



Acknowledged before me

Test

S/ Wm Hill, JP                      September ye 17 1785